



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**BUILDING ASSESSMENT**  
**ON**  
**43 WHIELDEN STREET,**  
**AMERSHAM, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**  
**NGR SU 95724 97163**

*On behalf of*  
*Mr & Mrs Foote*

**MAY 2014**

**REPORT FOR** Mr & Mrs Foote  
43 Whielden Street  
Amersham  
Buckinghamshire  
HP7 0HU

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**SUMMARY**

*John Moore Heritage Services were requested to carry out a building assessment of 43 Whielden Street, Amersham, by Mrs Foote. The house is a listed building with a timber frame, with indications of reworking of the structure on a number of occasions.*

*Historically the piece of land would seem to have been part of the main manorial holdings of Amersham. In post-medieval times the centre of this manorial holding was located at Shardeloes. This association with the manor is recognised historically in 1928 when the house and grounds at 43 Whielden are listed as a lot in a sale catalogue. This association means that although the house may appear on previous deeds of the manor, but without a distinctive name to recognise it by it will not be recognisable from any other house or cottage on the estate.*

*The house originated as a double fronted property of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, a design, which has four ground floor rooms and a stairwell located centrally at the back of the property. It is possible that the house was constructed in the aftermath of the Drake's purchase of the manor in 1637. The remaining phases can probably be categorised into a further four. In the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century it is probably the case that the rear southwest gable was added. In the later part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century it is probably the case that the outer part was re-worked on the front and south facades. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the front façade was probably re-worked as the shop window was inserted. Phase 5 was dated to the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which saw the addition of the northwest wing.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Location**

The building is located in the historic parish of Amersham, which was located in the historic Hundred of Burnham (Mawer and Stenton 1925, 208-10) and the historic County of Buckinghamshire.

On the east side the building fronts onto the pavement of Whielden Street, and on the south side onto the Platt. On the north side the property adjoins a terrace in Whielden Street and to the west it fronts onto a further domestic garden.

Topographically the house is located in a southern side valley of the valley of the River Misbourne. The house is located between 90m and 95m Ordnance Datum.

The underlying geology is classed as New Pit Chalk Formation, which is a chalk sedimentary bedrock formed 89-94 million years ago in the Cretaceous ([mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyof Britain/home.html](http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyof Britain/home.html)). There are also deposits of Head in the valley, in this case gravel deposits formed 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period.

### **1.2 Commission**

The report was commissioned by Mrs Neta Foote, owner of the property.

### **1.3 Aim of Investigation**

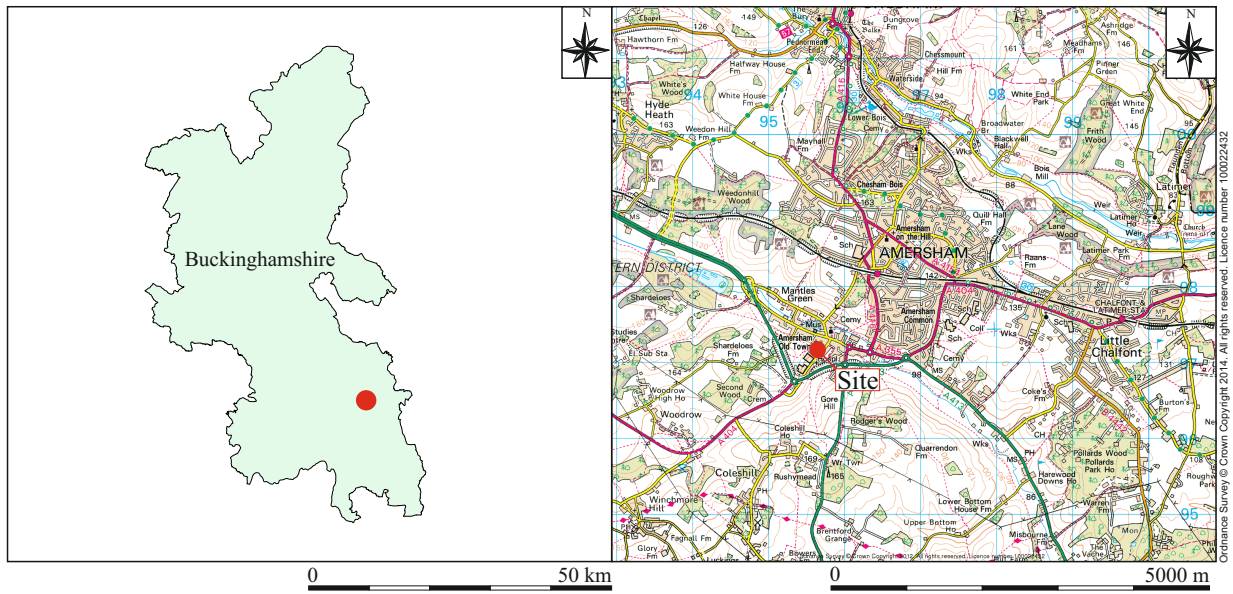
The aim of the research is to identify as far as possible the historical background for the buildings development, and to phase the structure's evolution.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Designations**

The building at 43 Whielden Street was listed in 1958 as a grade II structure (EHUID 415797: SU 95724 97163). The legacy listing is as followed:

*C18 front to C17 timber framed building, similar to No 41 (q.v.) but cement rendered and colourwashed. Old tile roof, one small box dormer. Two storeys and attic, central 4 panel half glazed door with architrave and hood. Early C19 shop bow window on right, 3-light casement on left. Two 3-light casements to first floor, that on left with a 4-pane fanlight. Gable wall to The Platt (q.v.) has two floorbands. Rear wing on south timber framed with brick infill, old tile roof, two storeys and attic. Timber framed gable to rear roof, and lower 2-storey wing to north, painted brick with tile roof, dentil eaves, two casement windows to first floor.*



Key ■ Study building

Figure 1: Site location

The RCHME (1912, 10) catalogues 5 buildings on the west side of Union Street, and 6 on the east side of the street, all of which are considered to date to c 1650-c 1700. 43 Whielden Street is not listed as one of the buildings, but on the accompanying map the building is coloured as a structure considered to date to the period c 1700. This interpretation has subsequently been altered and it is now the case that this is a date applied only to the façade.

The structure is not mentioned specifically in the *Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire* (Pevsner and Williamson 1994, 134), but seems to be covered by a catchall phrase for Whielden Street which are 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century houses, or 18<sup>th</sup> fronts concealing 17<sup>th</sup> century structures.

The building is located in a conservation area, which was created in 1969 and amended in 1992.

## **2.2 History of Development**

The site of 43 Whielden Street appears from later records to have been land officially part of the main manor of Amersham, which is believed to have been located at Shardeloes House. The name is first recorded as Shardeloves in 1331 and it is considered that the name is derived from Adam de Shardelowe, and that the name has been transferred from Shardlow in Derbyshire.

In 1066 the manor was held by Queen Edith (VCH 1925, 141-55). The earliest recording of the name is Agmodesham of 1066 (Mawer and Stenton 1925, 209-11), and the etymology given of the name is Old English Ealmod or Agilmodes a confusing personal-name.

The Domesday Book contains some seven entries that are in various ways associated with Amersham (Morris 1978, 4.11, 12.4, 21.1, 26.2, 36.2, 38.1, 44.1). The land associated with the later Drake manor was held in 1086 by Geoffrey de Mandeville and contained 7 ½ hides (Morris 1978, 21.1). This lists the holdings of the manor as 14 villagers, 4 smallholders, 7 slaves, and 400 pigs. The manors indicate that there were 19 villagers, thus indicating that there was probably a sizable village at Amersham at this date.

The land descended with the Mandeville family subsequently, with a descendent Geoffrey Mandeville being created earl of Essex in c. 1139 (VCH 1925, 141-55). By 1189 the manor had been passed to a female relative Beatrice Mandeville who married William de Say. Their eldest daughter, also called Beatrice, married Geoffrey Fitz Piers, who was created Earl of Essex in 1199. In 1216 William Fitz Piers re-assumed the name Mandeville, and in 1227 the manor went to his widow Christian, who subsequently married Raymond de Burgh.

The exact date when burgage rights were granted to Amersham is unknown, but it is assumed that this occurred shortly after the granting of rights to hold a fair in 1200 (VCH 1925, 141-55). The borough was certainly in existence in 1262 when there is a reference to Agmondesham outside the borough, and in 1276 to Trithinga or Fridboru that were held in a liberty created by King John (1199-1216). The borough may well have included properties in Whielden Street as far south as the Platt, and possibly just beyond.

At a date after 1227 Amersham manor passed to Maud, the sister of William Fitz Piers or Mandeville, married Henry de Bohun the Earl of Hereford, and later Roger de Dantes (VCH



1925, 141-55). The manor by 1332 had come to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Essex and Hereford. From 1275 to 1284 there was a dispute over the manor amongst various parts of the family. In 1336 the manor came to John de Bohun's widow, and by 1361 it had come to Humphrey Earl of Northampton, and in 1373 it had come to two daughters who were co-heirs. Anne, the Countess of Stafford, held the manor in 1421, and Humphrey earl of Stafford held the manor when he was created Duke of Buckingham in 1444.

In 1483 the manor of Amersham reverted to the Crown (VCH 1925, 141-55). This was the case until 1523 when the manor was granted to Alice Carter, and by 1526 this had passed to Sir John Russell and Anne his wife. In 1637 the manor was conveyed by Francis, Earl of Bedford, to William Drake of Shardeloes. In 1776 the Drake family assumed the name Tyrwhitt-Drake.

The name Whielden Street was previously believed to take its name from William de Whildene, who was documented in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (VCH 1925, 141-55). However, a study of the place-names in the parish has identified a written form 1281 as Whilden (Mawer and Stenton 1925, 212), a name considered to have an etymology of Old English hwēol-denu, wheel-valley, which refers to the curved form of the valley. The road uses a variation of this name in 1742 when it is called Wilding Street (BRO Ma/Dr/I.T). The road has also been called Union Street, due to the construction of the work house, the Union or Union Work House from 1838 to 1839 (Hunt 2001, 91-2). It was called this in 1912 when the RCHME (1912, 10) commissioned their work.

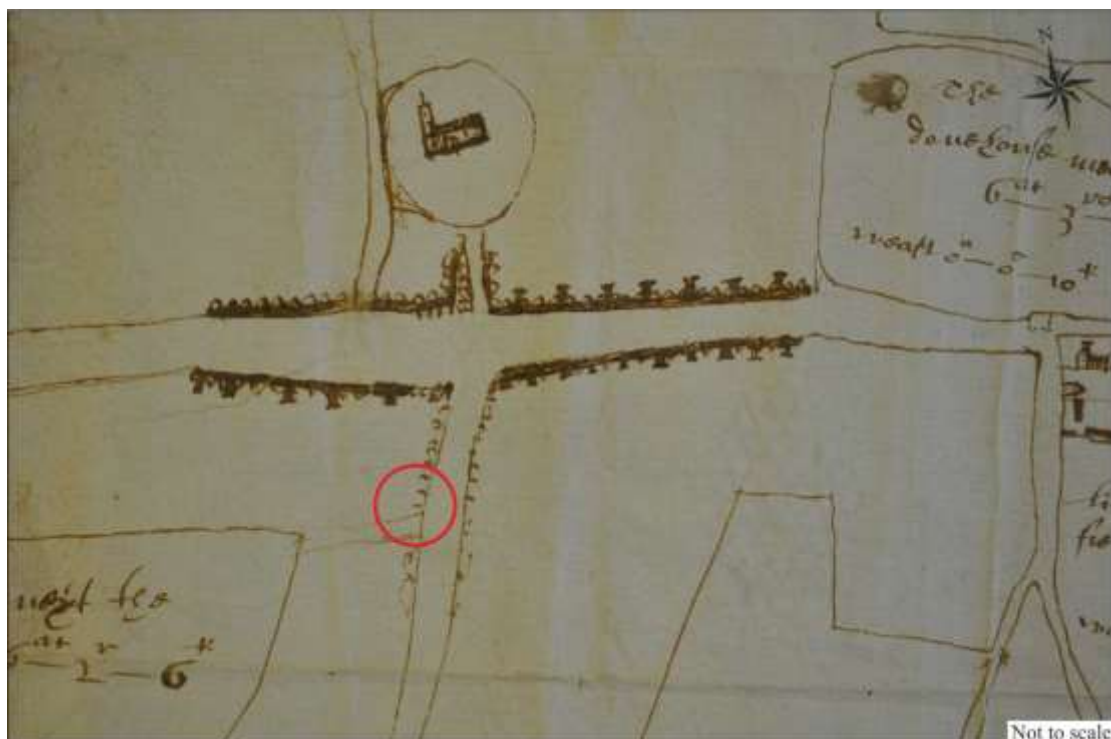


Figure 2 Map of 1637

The earliest surviving map of Amersham town is dated 1637 (BRO BAS 30/56 – BAS Maps 1), which shows the town as a T-shaped group of houses located in a parish map (Fig 2). The area along what is now Whielden Street is shown to form the southern arm of this T-shape and it can be assumed from the detail on this map that a structure existed on the site of 43 Whielden Street at this date, quite possibly the timber structure at the front of the current

building. If so the latest this part of the building can be is perhaps early 17<sup>th</sup> century.



Figure 3 Map of 1742



Figure 4 Rocque's Map of 1761

A map of 1742 (BRO Ma/Dr/I.T) shows the building as an elongated rectangular structure extending back from the road (Fig 3). The back line of the building is not staggered and it is highly likely that the structure at this time contained the central stairwell outshoot and adjacent lean-to additions. The exact nature of the northwest corner of the building is not known. The plot is numbered 140, with the street called Wilding Street, and the side street

Common Plat. Plot 140 was occupied by Mr Bovington, as was the neighbouring Plot 139. Other 18<sup>th</sup> century maps of Amersham show surrounding estates or the Inclosure of Amersham Common.



Figure 5 Jefferys' Map of 1767



Figure 6 Bryant's Map of 1824

The maps of Rocque of 1761 (Fig 4), Jefferys of 1767 (Fig 5) and Bryant of 1824 (Laxton 2000) (Fig 6) do little more than indicate that there is a property in this location.



Figure 7 Tithe Map of c 1840

The tithe map of c. 1840 (BRO PR 4/27/14.R) shows the plot of land with a rectangular building at the front (Fig 7). The site is numbered 529, which is part of a group of cottages and gardens. The group of properties is indicated as being owned by Thomas Tyrwhitt-Drake and the occupiers of these cottages are listed as Aldridge, William Rose, Daniel Smith, Eden, James Toms, James Ball and the last William. The listings are not easily interpreted and the identification of each of the occupiers with a specific property not abundantly clear. Other early or mid-19<sup>th</sup> century maps show outlying estates.

Tradition has it that 43 Whielden Street may at one time have been used as a public house. The return of public bear houses and grocers on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1872 (BRO Q/AP/26/11) provided a list of all the licensed premises in Amersham. Some five of these properties were listed under the ownership of T T Drake. These included the Crown which had been open over 50 years with a landlord William George, the Griffin open more than 50 years with a landlord William Bery, the Hare and Hounds open over 50 years with a landlord Robert Phillips, the Swan also open over 50 years with a landlord John Mead, and the last with no sign opened in 1861 with a landlord Arthur Clark. If the property does occur in this list then the only unidentified site is the later public house with no name.

The Ordnance Survey series at 1:2,500 First Edition of 1876 (Bucks XLIII.5) shows the property as a rectangular structure, but also shows that the garden to the rear of 43 Whielden Street may be linked to that of the adjoining property to the north. The Second Edition of 1898 (Bucks XLIII.5) shows the rear extension on the northwest side of the building. It can, therefore, be suggested that this wing was added and altered at some time from 1876-98, which is when this building reached its current form. The Third Edition of 1925 (Bucks XLIII.5) shows the same basic plan (Fig 8).

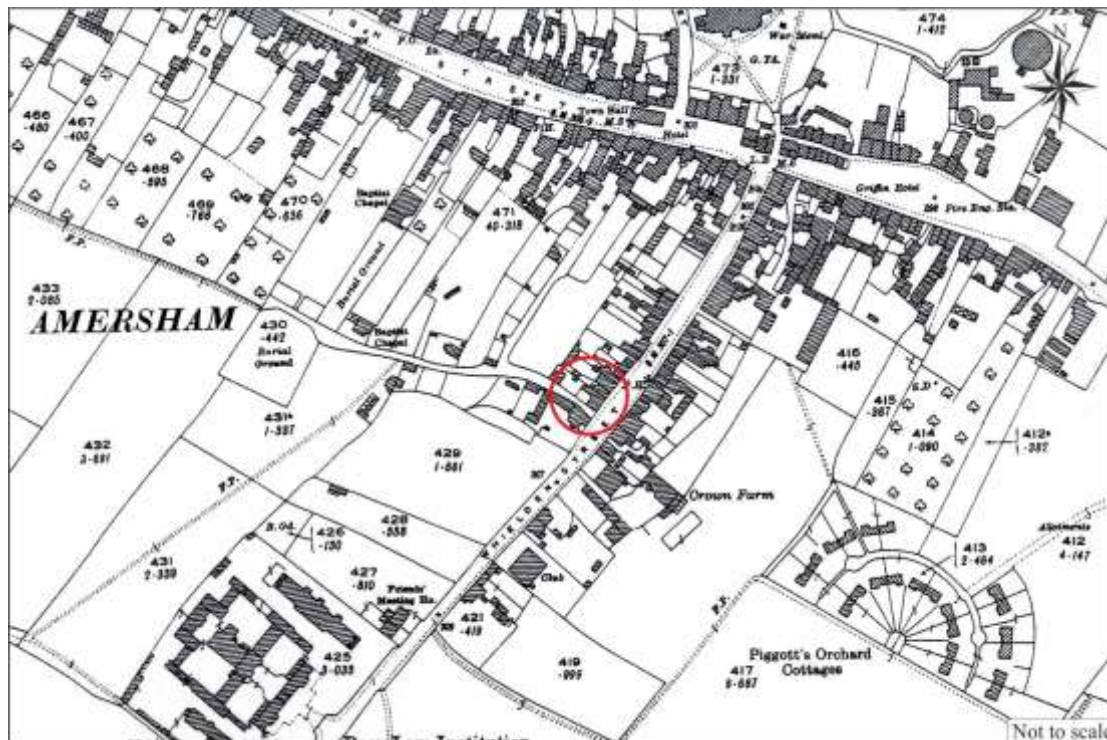


Figure 8 Ordnance Survey Map of 1925

The valuation map of Amersham c. 1910 (BRO DVD1/1/114) shows the plot of land coloured blue and numbers it 164. The land is listed as a house and shop under the ownership of W W Drake and occupied by a Mrs F Keen, with a valuation of £35. The neighbouring property plot 165 is also listed as a cottage under the ownership of W W Drake and occupied by George Slade. This property is valued at £15.

The recognition that a Mrs F Keen occupied the property in c. 1910, will provide further information on the occupancy of the premises when tied to the local directories. Harrod's Directory covering 1876 listed the following occupations Miss F Chapman (dressmaker), Walter and Henry Fuller (drapers and tailors), Henry Gurney (a baker), **Fredrick Keen** (builder), and Henry Redrup (hairdresser). The Kelly's Director of 1883 listed Benjamin Atkins (dyer), Charles Avis (chair maker), Benjamin Barker (beer retailer), William Bryan (registrar), Henry Fuller (draper), John Lee (shopkeeper), Henry Redrup (shop and hairdresser), Richard Sims (watchmaker), and John Toovey (shop). The Kelly's Directory of 1887 included Benjamin Atkins (dyer), Charles Avis (chair maker), William Bryan (registrar), Marion Gurney (baker), John Lee (shopkeeper), Joseph Redrup (shop and hairdresser), Richard Sims (watchmaker), and John Toovey (shopkeeper). The Kelly's Directory of 1891 listed Benjamin Atkins (dyer), Charles Avis (chair maker), F Bryan (registrar), Henry Fuller (draper), Marion Gurney (baker), Charles Hill (boot maker), John Lee (shopkeeper), John Neal (grocer), Joseph Redrup (shopkeeper and hairdresser), Mary Scott (butcher), Clement Toovey (shopkeeper), and Thomas Wheeler (banker). Kelly's Directory of 1895 notes Charles Arnott (beer and boot), Benjamin Atkins (dyer), Charles Avis (chair maker), Frank Bryan (registrar), Henry Fuller (draper), Marion Gurney (baker and corn chandler), Charles Hill (boot maker), **Fredrick Keen** (shopkeeper), George Pratt (greengrocer), Sarah Redrup (hairdresser), and Clement Toovey (shopkeeper). The Kelly's Directory of 1899 lists Charles Arnott (beer and boot), Benjamin Atkins (dyer), Frank Bryant (registrar), Henry Fuller (draper), Charles Hill (boot maker), Elizabeth martin (plumber), William Redhead (ironmonger), George Redrup (hairdresser), Edward Scott

(butcher), William Tarbuck (greengrocer), Clement Toovey (shopkeeper). The Kelly's Directory of 1911 listed Benjamin Atkins (bill poster and town cryer), Charles Avis (chair maker), Frank Bryan (registrar), Eli Henry Coleman (boot and shoe maker), Henry Gurney (baker and corn chandler). George Frederick Hylard (builder), **Elizabeth Keen** (shopkeeper), Joseph May (watchmaker), Frank Morgan (beer retailer), Mary Ellen Tarbuck (greengrocer), Clement Toovey (shopkeeper and baker), Walter Thomas Welch (butcher), and Joseph A Williams (plumber). The 1920 Kelly's Directory lists Charles Avis (chair maker), Thomas Agres (hairdresser and registrar), Eli Henry Coleman (boot and shoe maker), George Fredrick Hyland (builder), **Elizabeth Keen** (shopkeeper), Joseph Marsh (beer retailer), Ernest Walter Nutkins (banker), Mary Ellen Tarbuck (greengrocer), Clements Toovey (shop and baker), Walter Thomas Welch (butcher), a Joseph A Williams (plumber). Kelly's Directory of 1928 listed Charles Avis (chair maker), Thomas Ayres (hairdresser and registrar), Eli Henry Coleman (boot and shoe maker), Frederick Fuller (draper), A J and W Green (boot maker), **Ada Keen** (shopkeeper), William Snell (baker), Clement Toovey (baker), Ellen Welch (butcher), a Joseph A Williams (plumber). The 1935 Kelly's Directory listed Thomas Agres (hairdresser and registrar), Elsie Cater (shopkeeper) Eli Henry Coleman (boot and shoe maker), Walter Cindell (shopkeeper), Leslie Dean (hairdresser), Robert Gilbert (beer retailer), William Snell (baker), Clement Toovey (baker) and Ellen Welch (butcher).

What the data would indicate is that from c. 1895 Fredrick Keen ran the property with his wife Elizabeth Keen. Elizabeth Keen in 1911 was probably recorded as Mrs F Keen, taking the name from her husband. Fredrick Keen probably died in 1911 or some date just before that. Elizabeth Keen must have passed the premises on to Ada Keen at some time between 1920 and 1928. The relationship between these two ladies is unknown, but it is possibly a daughter. It cannot be determined if Frederick Keen the builder is the same Frederick Keen but it is possible to surmise that they may be relations. The 1935 list perhaps indicates that the premises had changed hands or that it had closed as a shop.

The Drake's sold most of their Amersham town holdings in April 1928, and produced a sale catalogue (BRO D/DR/2/10). On the map (Fig 9) the property is numbered up as lot 79, however, there is no listing for that lot within the catalogue. The catalogue does identify the occupants of the neighbouring cottages in the Platt lot 76 a detached cottage and garden occupied by W North, lot 77 a detached cottage occupied by F Gladman, lot 78 a detached cottage occupied by Mrs Fleming and lot 80 a pair of cottages occupied by Mr Yellop and Mr Shrimpton. The lot properties listed on the west side of Whielden Street include lot 83a a pair of cottages occupied by Mr W Atwell and Mr A Slade, lot 83b a single cottage occupied by T Rolfe, lot 84 a single cottage occupied by J R Dalamore, lot 86 a cottage and garden occupied by G E Aldridge (a surname on the tithe map), lot 87 a similar cottage occupied by H G Dover and lot 91 a cottage occupied by W Lane. The sale catalogue also indicates that lot 63 on the east side of Whielden Street was known as the Hare and Hounds Inn, and that if 43 Whielden Street ever was a public house it should not be identified as this one. The valuation map of 1911 indicates that both 43 and the property adjacent to the north were held as part of the Drake holdings, however, the adjacent property to the north is not located in the sale document. This would indicate that the cottage had already been sold or that it was not placed for sale at that time. Lot 79 is shown on the accompanying plan but is not listed in the sale document. This means that the property was considered for sale at this time, but was either sold before April and the production of the sale catalogue or that it was withdrawn. It would also mean that there are unlikely to have been any individual deeds prior to 1928, and that the building may occur on Drake deeds but that it would only be

listed as a cottage amongst many other holdings, and thus practically unrecognisable without a distinctive name.



Figure 9 Map associated with Drake's sale catalogue in 1928

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF 43 WHIELDEN STREET

#### 3.1 Introduction and General Description

The building is a two storey structure located in a terrace in Whielden Street in Amersham. The main part of the structure is rectangular in shape, but there is a later extension on the rear creating an L-shaped arrangement. The structure is constructed of brick, with some remaining timber framing; some areas of the framing contain wattle and daub and other parts are infilled with brick. The roof is covered with red clay tile.

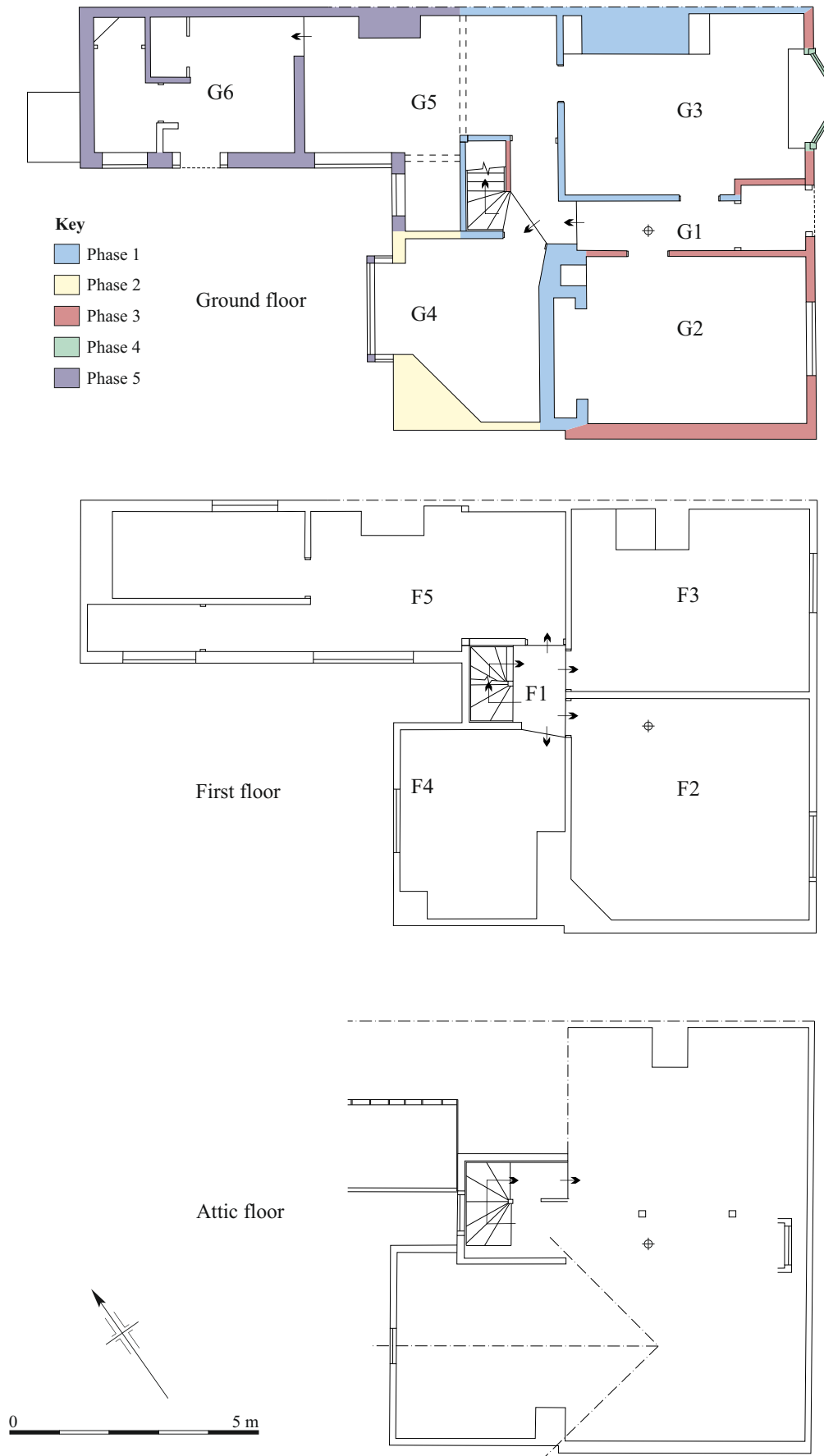


Figure 10: Floor plans



### 3.2 Exterior of the building



Plate 1 Front façade

The front of the building is rendered and painted pink, with a plinth painted in black (plate 1). There is a central panel door painted white with upper glass panels and iron knocker. The door has a moulded surround of a general 18<sup>th</sup> century character. Above this is a cantilever porch, with moulded timber and covered above with lead flash. Set above the porch is an image of a lion painted in black. The door is flanked by a window on both sides, with windows located above in the first floor. The window to the left of the door is bowed in a slight bay and contains 12 window lights in its casement. There is a moulded frame around this window, which contains fluting, and is likely to be of an 18<sup>th</sup> century or early 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The top of the bay is flashed with lead. The window above has a casement with two mullions, with each of the segments divided into three window lights. The window to the right of the door also has a casement with two mullions, and has lead flashing above the frame. The window above, set under the eaves, has variations in its form with larger mullion design below and smaller panelling above. The roof above is of red clay tile, and there is a flat roofed dormer window placed centrally. A chimney stack is located at each end of the roof.



Plate 2 Southwest elevation



Plate 3 Southwest elevation of rear wing

On the left hand side of the building there is a small trackway, and the façade that faces this is dominated by a gable end constructed predominantly in brick (plate 2). This is undoubtedly a rebuild or encasing of the original timber frame, probably of an 18<sup>th</sup> century date. At the base of the wall is a brick plinth and there are brick bands located in the vicinity of the first floor and attic floor. The upper part of the gable was not replaced in brick, here the remains of perlines are apparent, and presumably the upper part of the wall is still in wattle and daub. To the rear of this there are the remains of a back extension with a continuation of the plinth, above which is a timber frame of box form. The timber frame is infilled with bricks of a blackened appearance. Above this wall are a red clay tile roof, and a lateral chimney of brick.

The southwest facing façade of the rear extension is of brick and is whitewashed (plate 3). The ground floor contains a door opening with a segmental arch, and an adjacent window to the left which also has a segmental arch. There are two flat headed windows under the eaves, the left hand one containing a casement with two mullions and the right hand one a casement with four mullions. The right hand window is obscured partially by a later roof, which must be part of a later insertion. On the south facing aspect of this window there is a casement window with two mullions and a transom. At the end of this part of the south facing façade there is a small lean-to structure made of brick and also whitewashed, with a door.

The northwest facing (rear) façade shows that there have been a number of extensions to the rear of the building (plate 4). On the right hand side there is a timber framed gable, of a box construction, and infilled with brick. On the ground floor a square bay window has been inserted which is protected above by a clay tile roof. This is evidently a later insertion, probably of a 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The first floor contains a window of two mullions set in the timber framing of the building; this is indicative of the window being the original size even if the casement may be later, the top of the casement has lead flashing. In the gable any timber framing has been replaced by brick, and there is a window set centrally. Centrally to the west façade there is a further gable, which contains the central stairwell (plate 4). This again is timber framed with brick infill. Only the upper part of the gable is visible, which has a blocked opening, undoubtedly operating as a loft door. To the left the larger rear extension was added; this also has a gable of whitewashed brick below which is

the lean-to with a red clay tile roof. The construction of this extension has led to the angle of the central gable to be reconfigured.



Plate 4 Rear or northwest façade

The northeast elevation to a large extent has been placed against the neighbouring building. Part of brick wall is exposed which has a window in it with a new casement.

### **3.3 Interior of the building – ground floor**

The front panel door leads into a small lobby or hall, in which this door occupies the east wall (plate 5). The east wall contains some timber framing, and the door has not been set within the framing. In the west wall there is a further door leading into a passage. The lower parts of the walls below a dado are covered in plank panelling. The west door appears to be a more modern panelled door, with glass, though there is a decorative moulded surround.

The door leads into an L-shaped passageway that links the rest of the building (G1). A door is located in the northeast wall of the long arm of the passage and a door opposite on the southwest side. A second door is located on the southwest side at the angle in the passage. The staircase also joins the passage on the angle, being on the northwest side. Under the stairs there is a further panel door leading to a small cellar. At the northeast end of the short arm is a further door. The walls have plank panelling below a dado rail. There are the remains of timber framing including the remains of an axial beam, with stops. There is a further part of a timber framed wall and old doorway, which lies in line with the original back wall of the property, and to some extent separating the northeast to southwest part of the passage.



Plate 5 Front door internally

The door on the northeast side of the passage leads into a room (G3) with a large chimneybreast in its northeast wall. The fireplace is blocked and covered in plank panelling. In the right hand part of the northeast wall there are a series of drawers and shelves, which were inserted when the premises operated as a shop. The southeast window contains a slight bay window, and there is a cupboard to the right (recently inserted). The door leading to the passage is a panel door in the southwest wall, which shows signs of being timber framed, and has lower plank covering. There is a panel door in the partially timber framed northwest wall. The ceiling has an axial beam with a slight chamfer, possibly a later replacement, and joists that are more recent replacements.

The main door on the southwest side of the long arm of the passage is a panel door with moulded surround, which leads into a sitting room (G2). The chamfered beam with stops, which is located in the passageway, continues through the wall into the southwest sitting room. The stops contain one bar across them (plate 7). This implies that the wall dividing the passageway and sitting room is a later insertion. In the southeast wall of this room there is a window casement of a mullioned window. In the northwest wall there is a large fireplace with timber lintel (plate 6). A small alcove can be recognised either side. The brick sizes to the rear of the fireplace are indicative of a probable 18<sup>th</sup> century reworking. To the right of the fireplace and raised up slightly is a small cupboard, probably a spice cupboard. Above the fireplace on the left hand side the ceiling a joist runs at an angle supporting features in the room above. In the southwest wall there is an alcove inserted with timber surround in a Georgian style.



Plate 6 Ground floor southeast room (G2), fireplace



Plate 7 Chamfer and stop at the end of the beam

The other room (G4) on the southwest side of the passage is also entered through a panel door. On the northwest side of the room is the rectangular bay window. In the southwest corner there is a fireplace, with a brick mantle. On the southeast wall is the back of a chimneybreast. There is a cupboard in the southeast wall adjacent to the door.

The remaining ground floor room (G5) lies at the northeast arm of the short north-western part of the L-shaped passage. This is entered through a plank door with latch. In the southeast wall there is a plank door set in a wall of timber framing. There are the remains of an earlier wall line with timber framing, which has largely been removed. On the northeast wall there is a mock fireplace of brick, breezeblock, with a timber lintel (replacing an earlier one). Opposite this on the southwest side of the room there are mullioned and transom windows. An opening leads through into a small room (G6) with an outside door with an adjacent white porcelain sink. In the dividing wall; there are some old timbers. To the northwest of this there is a further opening in the wall to a small rest room.

The plank door under the stairs leads to brick stairs that turn and lead down to a cellar with

brick walls and a brick floor.



Plate 8 Panel door and timber framing, first floor, northeast room (F3)

### 3.4 Interior of the building – first floor and attic

The stairs twist round at either end, so as to fit them into the necessary part under the gable. A glass panel has been inserted over the stairs to show that some of the building is still constructed of wattle. This reaches a landing (F1) that has five further doors coming off it.

The two doors on the southeast side of the landing lead into the two front rooms. The plank door on the left hand side leads into the northeast room (F3) in the front part of the house (plate 8). There are the remains of a chimney breast in the northeast wall along with timber framing, and timber framing in the southwest wall. In the southeast wall there is a mullion window, and indications of timber framing. The room contains modern built-in cupboards. There is an axial beam in the ceiling.

The panelled right hand door leads in to the front bedroom on the southwest side of the structure (F2). This has a timber framed wall on the northeast side, and a mullioned window in the southeast wall, which is composite in its overall design. In the west corner there is a fireplace set into the angle of the wall with a small spice cupboard above (plate 9). An axial beam is located in the ceiling.

The panelled door on the south side of the landing leads into a small room located in the rear gable (F4) over the cellar. In the west wall there is a mullioned window with exposed timber above. The east wall contains the remains of a chimneybreast and cupboards.



Plate 9 Fireplace southeast room (F2), first floor

The door on the northeast side of the landing is entered through a plank door, set into a timber framed wall (F5). There is a chamfered beam above. The southeast and northeast walls also contain evidence of timber framing. Separating the southeast part of the room from the later extension there are indications of the remains of a timber framed wall that has been removed. In the southwest wall of the room there are two mullioned windows with evidence of further timber framing between and their sills set at different heights. The northwest wall, which has been recently altered, is staggered and has a plank door in its length; there is also a feature boxed in against the northeast wall. The plank door with latch leads into a bathroom with a modern window in the northeast wall and a mullioned window in the southwest (this has been recently altered).



Plate 10 Central truss, attic

The remaining door from the landing leads into the upper part of the stairwell, which contains a staircase leading up to the attic (plate 11). The visible internal wall of a gable above the stairwell is in brick, and there is an opening set in the upper part of the gable. This is presumably to lift material to store in the attic. The attic has one major northeast to

southwest roof space (plate 10), with three other roof spaces extending to the northwest. The stairs are located in the central gable. There is also evidence of timber box framing, and wattle and daub surviving in this area. On the northeast side of the northeast to southwest main attic space there is a chimneybreast, with a blocked up rectangular opening. The southwest wall is in brick and there is an outline of the timber framing in the wall. There are two trusses of which the southwest one is a simple A-frame. The other truss contains queen struts and a collar beam, with a king post and strut above. On the southeast side of the attic there is a roof dormer. In the west corner there is a gable extending, it has a window in its gable end. The remaining part of the roof space is a southeast-northwest roof on the north side that is added later than the middle gable, and for which access is provided by removing part of the earlier roof.



Plate 11 Internal part of rear central gable, attic

## 4 ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 Phases

The structure probably started off as a structure of a double pile plan (Brunskill 2000, 114-5). This plan contains four rooms downstairs (double fronted), with a centrally located stairwell in-front of a passage to the rear (Fig 11). The first floor would again have contained four rooms and a stairwell. In this case the two rear rooms may have originated as rooms with a low sloping ceiling, as per the sloping timber in the northeast wall of the north room (F5). This type of structure was first introduced at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and had become widely used at all social levels by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. This structure is certainly phase 1, and it would be reasonable to think that when the Drake family took over the estate in 1637 that around this time there may have been an attempt to upgrade some of the housing stock. The key dating evidence for this structure are the stops on the chamfered beams in the ground floor passageway and southeast room, which have a bar. There are similarities but not identical to the ogee stops identified at Rockbourne in Hampshire, which are dated to the early part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Mercer 1975, 166 no.173). There are some similarities to the door stops from Surrey dated 1656 (Alycock and Hall 1994, 35 d). This data looks as though 1637 or sometime after may be an appropriate date for the structure.



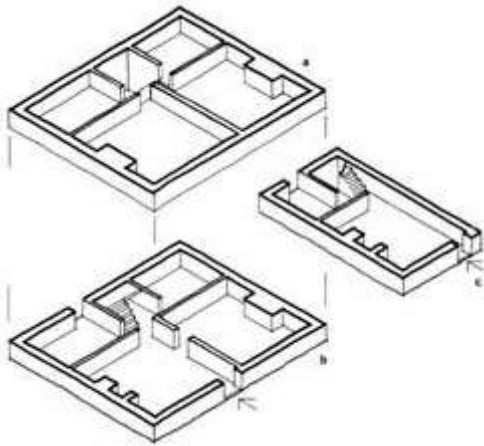


Figure 11 Double fronted ground (b) and first (a) floor (from Brunskil)

In the loft space the rafters are missing between the main northeast to southwest axis of the attic and the small central back gable that contains the stairwell. It is possible that this gable formed part of the original building, or alternatively the two up and two down formed the original structure. We thus have a phase 1 or a phase 1a and 1b. The gable extension in the attic has wattle and daub panelling and timber framing, which would have originally separated this from the gable from the two gables that flank it. There are reasons to think that this was all part of one phase, as the structure can be compared to a structure at Commissary's Farm at Charnock Richard in Lancashire (plate 12), which contains a mid-17<sup>th</sup> century outshut and stair turret (Mercer 1975, 180 no.242). The image of this farmhouse shows the sloping back roof of the building, which is presumably what 43 Whielden Street would have looked like. At No.20 Crabtree Lane, Pirton in Hertfordshire (plate 13), we have an example of an outshoot that is fitted into the slope of the roof (Mercer 1975, 170 no.192). This structure is again associated with the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.



Plate 12 Commissary's Farm, Charnock Richard, Lancashire



Plate 13 No. 20 Crabtree Lane, Pirton, Hertfordshire

Phase 2 saw the addition of the southwest wing to replace the previous lean-to addition on the back of the building. This would probably have seen the insertion of the cellar, the insertion of the back fireplace, the rebuilding of the wall adjacent to the Platt. If the shape of the building is correct on the map of 1742, then it is wise to assume that this development occurred after that date, and is probably a development of the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

Phase 3 is also of an 18<sup>th</sup> century date, perhaps later in date, which saw the frontage of the building and the end gable alongside the Platt reworked. The front panel door contains L-shaped hinges of a plain nature, similar hinges have been identified in a Gloucestershire house dated to 1707 (Alycock and Hall 1994, 25); earlier examples are more decorative.

Phase 4 saw the insertion of the bow window on the front elevation. This is a feature that was inserted into shops in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Brunskill 2000, 144-5). It is probable that the premises were turned into a shop at this date.

Phase 5 saw the addition of the wing on the north side of the building. This brick structure does contain some old timber features, but more significantly the extension is not placed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1876, but it is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1898. This provides a 22 year period in which the extension was added.

## **4.2 Listed Status**

The building is a grade II listed structure, and is thus considered architecturally to be of national significance.

## **4.3 Historic and Architectural Assessment**

The building is listed and is located in a Buckinghamshire town conservation area, which has some 150 buildings. The structure appears to have originated as a building of the early to mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, which contained a centrally placed outshoot turret to its rear with a stairwell. Though these structures are known they are rare and usually associated with upper class residents. The addition of two wings in the 18<sup>th</sup> and late 19<sup>th</sup> century has partially masked this original form.

## 5 THE CURRENT PROPOSAL

The report has not been carried out to accompany a planning application, but has been commissioned for interest.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

Amersham contains a large number of listed buildings (150), of which 43 Whielden Street is just one. The building is a timber framed structure of a 17<sup>th</sup> century origin that was attached to the holding of the chief manor of Amersham. The plot on which the structure stands was redeveloped in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, and a date around 1637 when the Drake's acquired the manor would seem to be an appropriate date to associate with this phase of the plot. The type of house built at that time was normally associated with the upper classes at this early date, so it is highly likely that the house could have been developed for a significant tenant at this time.

The structure is a building of five distinct phases. The earliest phase is the early 17<sup>th</sup> century construction of the building as a double fronted structure with a outshoot turret at the rear. Phases 2 and 3 occurred in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This saw the addition of a wing on the southwest side of the building, probably in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but probably post-dating the map of 1742, and the reworking of the front and side of the building later in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The bow window is a shop feature of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The northwest wing was added in a 22 year period from 1876 to 1898.

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Stephen Yeates

John Moore Heritage Services

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